

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A reciprocating engine comprises: a piston ring; a piston ring which defines an annular gas chamber in cooperation with the piston ring and which is adjacent to the piston ring such that a pressure-receiving area of a side surface of a piston in the annular gas chamber becomes greater on a thrust side than on a counter-thrust side of the piston; and gas passages for allowing the annular gas chamber to communicate with the combustion chamber.